



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, September 23, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Emerald Ash Borer Status

Ohio:

Following the USDA Science Advisory Panel's recommendation, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) surveyors have begun work in Fulton and Lucas counties, marking ash trees within ½ mile of infestations located west of Oak Openings Metropark as part of its Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) eradication program. Marked trees will be cut down as early as this Fall. A public open house is being planned before eradication begins in and around Oak Openings Metropark to allow citizens to see eradication maps and ask questions of ODA and USDA personnel working on EAB.

According to SPPQO Liz Pentico from the EAB Project: The ODA, with cooperation from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), conducted a blitz preceding Labor Day Weekend to enforce regulations governing the movement of firewood into Ohio from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantined area in Michigan. Locations close to the Ohio-Michigan state line on old US 223 and Ohio SR 109 were selected as they were routed through the quarantine area in Michigan to the state line. The intent of the blitz was to inform the traveling public about EAB and create a visible regulatory presence at the Ohio state line. Many southeastern Michigan residents travel to campgrounds, summer cabins and other outdoor recreation areas in Ohio. Infested firewood is a high risk item and the potential of this threat is increasing as more and more trees in the core area are dying from persistent EAB infestation and are being cut down and chopped for firewood. There is also an active logging presence and numerous firewood dealers in southeastern Michigan whose commercial activities may be placing Ohio at risk.

Data was collected from all individuals carrying firewood. If the wood was being moved in violation of

the federal quarantine the wood was seized, a PPQ 523-emergency action notification (EAN) was completed and a notification of violation processed (APHIS 7060). No commercial shipments of firewood were encountered. The destinations of the seized firewood spanned three states, a public campground (Sunny's, outside of Wauseon, Ohio) and a state campground (Harrison Lake Campground, Ohio). All 2,100 travelers contacted during the course of this blitz were given EAB informational materials.

This blitz garnered strong media coverage. The event was covered nationally by AP wire and appeared in papers as far as North Carolina and Washington. It was also reported on national TV news. Local media carried information on the event on radio, TV and in newspapers in Michigan and Ohio.

Maryland:

MDA continues to monitor for Emerald Ash Borer in Maryland at all sites where exposed trees are known to have been planted. A Quarantine Order issued on March 16, 2004 restricts the movement of ash trees and ash material into, out of, or through an area around the initially affected nursery in southern Prince George's County.

Michigan:

There are two new county finds in Michigan confirmed by the USDA Identifier:

One larva was confirmed as EAB from Ocqueoc Lake, Millersburg, Presque Isle County. The specimen was confirmed on September 17, 2004. The specimen was collected from a re-visit to a questionable site from last year.

Four larvae at site 1 and 3 larvae at site 2 at a Cedar Lake Road property in Greenbush, Alcona County were confirmed on September 14, 2004. The specimens were collected from a site referred to MDA by a County Forester. The specimens were collected on established trees and probably introduced to the area through firewood.



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Canada:

During the week of September 17th, USDA officials met with Canadian agricultural officials in Port Huron regarding Emerald Ash Borer. Canada reports that they have had some positives in and around the City of Chatham. They believe that EAB may have been there at least a year, with ash trees only starting to show "classic" EAB symptoms, i.e. asymptomatic trees with a small crack and some galleries. Their staff is focusing on completing survey activities for purposes of delimitation.

Source: Deborah McPartlan

Giant African Snail Status

The Western Region has initiated a new detector dog training program for GAS detection in pre-departure surveillance from Hawaii, to commence in October, 2004. The dogs will continue to do pre-departure passengers and mail, and will be expanding also to small parcels. Hawaii is considered an important pathway for GAS to the mainland. Although still awaiting the results of DNA analyses that may help determine the origin(s) of snails seized in Operation Wisconsin last spring, Hawaiian SITC officers are increasing pre-departure surveillance efforts and the Western Region has stepped up its public outreach efforts

Source: Mike Stefan

Noxious Weeds Status

Revision of Quarantine 37:

A two-day meeting of the Q-37 Revision Working Group was attended at CPHST Headquarters in Raleigh the week of September 13. Al Tasker, Erich Rudyj and Polly Lethonen of the APHIS National Weed Team attended. Polly and Al are to develop criteria for a new category of pest, "Regulated pending further assessment". The species assessed in the APHIS WSSA joint project will be used as a test case. Al is to work on an issue paper regarding the issue of assessment or prediction of invasiveness in plants.

Weed Emergency Response Guidelines:

The week of September 13 Al Tasker and Art Miller spent a day reviewing the draft Emergency Response

Guideline document Art has been drafting for the APHIS weed program. Art has made good progress, and will incorporate suggested changes from Al and Joel Floyd.

North American Weed Management Association Annual Conference:

Al Tasker attended the North American Weed Management Association annual meeting in Rapid City. He presented a talk for Hilda Diaz-Saltero (USDA Invasive Species Coordinator) regarding Federal invasive species activities. Al discussed with Craig Ramsey, the new Agronomist with the Ft. Collins CPHST lab, the National prospective on weed program needs for methods development projects.

Inula britannica:

The finding reported in August of *Inula britannica* associated with hosta plants at a nursery in Washington County Minnesota, further investigation determined the problem has existed at the nursery for three years and hosta plants contaminated with *Inula britannica* may be in their production stream.

The nursery reported they noticed *Inula britannica* associated with hosta plants in one of their fields three years ago. They did not report it to state officials and have been treating on their own in attempt to eradicate. The nursery reports that they eradicated the weed in the growing field where it was introduced. The find by MDA in August 2004, is a different production field about one mile away from the initial site and separated by roads and tree line.

Source: Al Tasker

Sudden Oak Death Status

Since the beginning of September, PPQ has detected *P. ramorum* at three facilities in Oregon. Two finds were at production farms owned by the same company in Forest Grove, OR; the third at a composting facility in Scappoose, OR. Delimiting surveys have been conducted at the sites and trace back and trace forward investigation are underway. The production nursery, which is under an EAN, shipped plants from its farms to nurseries and garden centers nationwide. Testing at the



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composting facility is complete, no additional positives were found; it has been released from holds.

As of September 23, 2004 the total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey finds is 160 in 21 States. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South Carolina and one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR(1), AZ (1), CA(53), CO(1), FL(6), GA(18), LA(5), MD(2), NC(9), NJ(1), NM(1), NY(1), OK(1), OR(13), PA(indoor), SC(3), TN(2), TX(11), VA(2) and WA (25).

APHIS - PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey activities are complete in 14 Western Region States (AK, AR, AZ, CA, IA, ID, LA, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, MT, and WY) and 13 Eastern Region (CT, FL, KY, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, NJ, OH, PA, PR, WI). The southern states that suspended their national survey activities until weather conditions were more conducive to *P. ramorum* symptom expression are restarting their surveys. As of September 23, 2004, participating States through out the nation have surveyed 2,215 sites and have collected 39,878 samples; 15 national survey sites are confirmed positive.

Last week (September 12 – 17) PPQ staff from Riverdale and the Western Region traveled to California and Oregon to be the “federal presence” on a tour of nurseries sponsored by Monrovia Nursery and California Department of Food and Agriculture. The purpose of the tour was to show agriculture officials from several states (those that continue to regulate CA above the Federal Order) that nurseries in those states have taken actions to ensure they are shipping *P. ramorum* clean stock. The sites visited demonstrated a commitment by some producers and by California and Oregon to implement measures to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum*.

Source: James Writer

Asian Longhorned Beetle Status

New Jersey - Carteret/Woodbridge Twp. Infestation
Representatives from NJ Governor's Office, The Office of Management and Budget and others, will be touring

the Borough of Carteret/Woodbridge Township infestation on Tuesday September 28th. NJDA and APHIS program personnel will be hosting the tour.

The climber survey crews continue to delimit the infestation within the Borough of Carteret. No additional infested trees were found outside the core.

With the clear skies this week, we were successful in taking all of the aerial and satellite images as planned. USFS and USDA CPHST will be analyzing the images over the next few months.

NJ State Forestry and NJDA conducted aerial inspection of the core and immediate surrounding area of the infestation via the State Forestry helicopter to look for trees under stress. Some suspect trees were detected and program personnel are in the process of ground truthing the suspect finds.

Illinois

On Wednesday September 15, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County held an ALB Awareness Day at Schiller Woods. The event was attended by personnel from the Forest Service District, City of Chicago Bureau of Forestry, APHIS Volunteer Survey Program, and IL ALB Program.

New York

In Manhattan, program personnel continued their delimitation surveys around the latest infested tree finds. No new infestations were detected. Our delimitation surveys around the core detections in Brooklyn continue to result in additional finds. These infested trees are located within the courtyards of properties that have been very difficult to access.

Public Outreach

The radio show, "The Garden Hotline" will be running a two hour special on the ALB program this Sunday, September 26, 2004. NJ APHIS ALB Project Director Barry Emens, NY APHIS ALB Project Co-Director Joseph Gittleman, and NJDA Director of Plant Industry Carl Schulze will be guest speakers on the show.

Source: Christine Markham



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